OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RURAL EXTENSION
19 APR 1961
KALLUPATTI

Panchayati Raj

MARCH 1961

1275

PANCHAYATI RAJ

(Incorporating Gram Sevak)

PHALGUNA 1882

Vol. 1 **MARCH 1961** **No. 12**

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Editor : R. N. GUPTA
Cover Design : ROMESH CHANDRA

BUSINESS NOTICE
Single Copy : 15 nP.
Annual : Rs. 1·25

All enquiries regarding agency and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Business Manager, Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Panchayati Raj*, Ministry of Community Development & Cooperation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

PAYMENT TO CONTRIBUTORS

To encourage readers of Panchayati Raj to share with their friends their thoughts, experiences and achievements in the field of Community Development, Cooperatives and Panchayats, it has been decided to pay for letters and contributions appearing in this journal with effect from March, 1961. The payment will be made at the rate of Rs. 5 for each letter and about Rs. 10 for each accepted article. Readers are requested to write articles and letters on subjects of common interest and to address them to :

The Editor, Panchayati Raj,
Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation,
371, Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi.

Our Monthly Letter No. 8

New Delhi
March 6, 1961.

DEAR FRIEND,

Our village people have lived in disease and wants. But they have not lost their zest for life. No one feels more excited about a fair or a pilgrimage than a villager, man or woman. When a villager goes to a town or a far-away place, he never fails to buy something which can act as a memento. No villager is an exception to it.

I have been roaming around India, all its nook and corner, for many years now. Wherever I go, I pick up a plant, even a stone, which I can bring and plant in my residence at Delhi. I have in my house a cross-section of fruit plants that grow in all the plains States of India. The plants, I find, grow very well. They develop heavy foliage. They grow some time even richer than in the homeland from where I pick them up initially. We have the water of the Jamuna in abundance. We also produce a considerable amount of compost manure with the dry leaves and the sweepings of the house. We also never fail to give attention to the plants. No wonder, the plants grow into luscious trees. But the fruit when it comes, tastes nearly insipid.

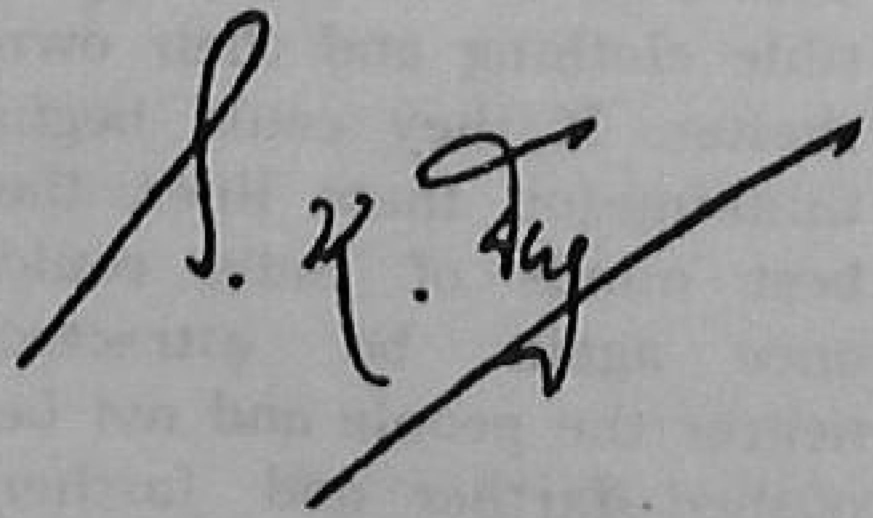
I get the best Papaiyas from Abu Road in Rajasthan, from the horticultural garden in Hyderabad, also from other places. Papaiyas grow to enormous sizes. But they have nothing of the sweetness of their parents. Even stones which I pick up from flowing rivers begin to lose their natural lustre when they come to Delhi. I spend a considerable amount of my time in communion with the plants and trees in the garden and the orchard which I laid here over several years now. "If Delhi climate can have such an influence over plants, even over stones, what must it be doing to the cream of our talent which we attract here from all parts of India ?" I ask myself. The thought gives me a shudder not over what is happening today but over what is sure to happen years from now if we do not begin to do something soon enough.

Any animal which is vital and vigorous must have alert muscles. It must be free from fat. Fat is the antithesis of efficiency. Our farmers know it to their cost because they have to earn their living by working with their muscles. If Delhi is to be effective in the service of India, it must shed its fat. The only way the de-fatting operation can take place is by the people of India beginning to grow self-reliant. If people can work with integrity and do individually, in groups or collectively what they can manage themselves without looking up to Government, the latter will automatically lose its undue fat and the importance that goes with it. In a cultured and developed country, Government acts more or less like the housekeeper, almost on the background. High importance attached to Government and its functionaries wherever it happens offers clear evidence that the people are primitive and backward.

Farmers from the different parts of the country continue passing through Delhi in the course of Bharat Darshan. Every group of farmers I meet in my house confirms the common complaint that they do not get taccavi, seeds, or fertilisers, in time. They complain that services from Government are not as efficient as they would like them to be. We continue telling them that it is not possible to correct this from Delhi or the State Headquarters. Our villages must build up strength in their panchayats and their cooperatives. They must try to see that these institutions secure the services of experts who can genuinely serve the people. Villages must make sure that they produce their own seeds, organic manure, water both for drinking and irrigation, cereals, vegetables, milk and to the extent possible clothing and their own shelter. If they could begin thinking on these lines, the best minds of India could once again be attracted nearer the people and not be pushed farther and farther

away from them, into the towns and cities, the capitals of the States and the capital of the country.

We have been talking about Panchayati Raj for some time. Panchayati Raj demands self-reliance and self-motivation in individuals. It demands cooperation between the members of the village community. It calls for inter-relationship between adjoining villages. The idea is that the individuals federate into the family, the family into the village, the village into the Block, the Block into the District, State, nation and the world community. When an individual becomes a member of the family, he enjoys the collective security provided by all members of the family. But, as a price, he also surrenders some of his individual rights to the collective pool of the family. There is no collective security without surrender of something from one's individual sovereignty. These basic principles once ruled our life in the community. These have to reassert themselves. Call it Panchayati Raj, Community Development or whatever else you wish, higher morality will constitute the base of all endeavours if we are to rise above the pettiness which rules our life today. There will be no short-cut remedy.



GLIMPSES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

VIDUR

RAJASTHAN, ANDHRA, Madras, Mysore and Assam have so far been in the forefront of the implementation of the Panchayati Raj programme. The latest to join the pageant is the State of Orissa where Panchayati Raj was inaugurated on the Republic Day this year. Here, as in other States the pattern of Panchayati Raj has its own characteristic features suited to the local conditions and the genius of the people. Already 2,344 Panchayats were in existence and had been working in close cooperation with the C.D. Department. What is now proposed is to have the higher tiers of Panchayati Raj at the Block and District levels. A special feature of the Panchayat Samitis in Orissa is that it is constituted not only of the Sarpanches of the concerned Panchayats but also of other members elected directly by the village people. It is hoped that the presence of members 'other than Sarpanches' in the Panchayat Samiti will exercise its sobering influence and prevent the Panchayat Samiti from becoming all too powerful so as to overshadow the effectiveness of the village Panchayats. The Study Team of AVARD that visited Rajasthan recently, had rightly placed its finger on one of the causes of ineffective of village Panchayats in the State, when it observed that the Sarpanch being directly elected by the whole people, and also being a concurrent member of the Panchayat Samiti, tended to occupy a unique position far above the rest of the Panches, and thus the Panchayat Samiti rather than the village Panchayat became the focal point of power. For this if for no other reason, the experiment in Orissa will be watched with interest.

PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

Panchayati Raj elections are just over in several States like Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. It will be worthwhile to study the impact of these elections on the community life of the villagers and to draw lessons that might serve as guides in future to avoid the inherent dangers and pitfalls. One thing is clear that these elections have shaken our countryside in a way it had never been done before. The young and the old as well as the womenfolk have all been equally stirred by the fever generated by these elections. Party factions and groupings have been carried to the very doorsteps of the villagers. The parliamentary form of democracy envisages such a situation and any other development would have been rather extraordinary. This is not to say that there have been no unanimous elections. Both in Orissa and Punjab, about 30% elections were unanimous. In Rajasthan, 25% elections were

reported to be unanimous. The encouragement given by various State Governments in the form of prizes, grants-in-aid and remission of land revenue to Panchayats having unanimous elections, no less than the traditional outlook of the old Panchayats to unanimously select a Panch have had something to do with this. Unanimous elections are welcome at any time and anywhere as these tend to minimise the bitterness and rancour arising out of keenly contested elections. Obviously, such unanimity should come from within the heart and not be superficial or superimposed if this is to have any healthy effect in the long run. For the present, the political parties have generally kept away from the scene of elections. However, after elections, the various parties have tried to indulge in an unhealthy race to own the elected representatives as their own. It is to be seen how far the advice tendered by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan to the various political parties to enter into a "gentleman's agreement" not to participate in the Panchayat elections is going to be observed. So long as the shadow of political parties remains hovering over the elections to higher bodies at the State and national level, it will require a superhuman effort to keep the Panchayat elections immune from that influence. Sooner or later, they will have to learn to face the political ideologies offered by various parties. The substitution of narrow ideas based on caste or creed by higher political ideologies would be better any day. Even the empty political demagogues who might succeed in swaying the masses and winning the elections in bigger constituencies would not be able to do so now unless they have a record of service and accomplishment to their credit. This is one distinct advantage of having small and compact constituencies as of village Panchayats where the electorate are known to each other and the premium is on the individual's merit. The results of the recent elections have clearly proved this. Several well known old leaders who had the force of tradition, past prestige and even caste to support them have gone overboard yielding place to many a young new leaders. Sensing the opportunity, several educated youths who had gone to the cities to make a living have come back to play their part in the 'mighty adventure of building rural India'.

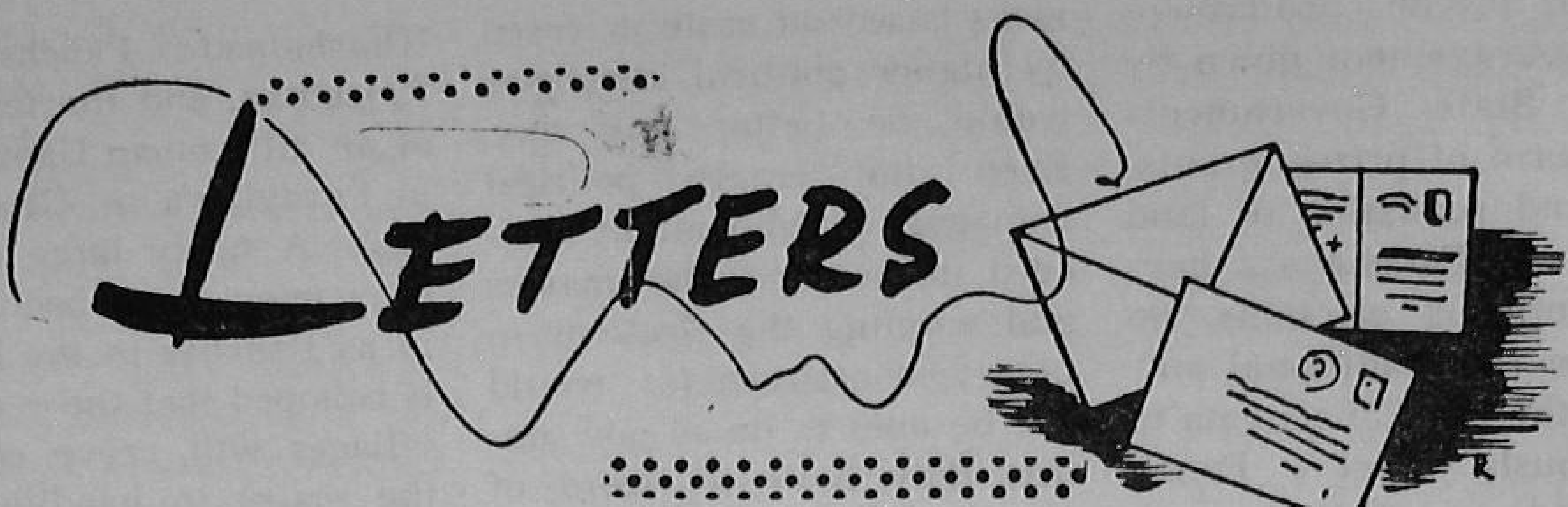
EVE ON THE MARCH

The Thakars of Dandia Mau near Bara Banki in U.P. thought it below their dignity to get elected with the help of women votes. Consequently they did not allow women to exercise their franchise. But the eve is already on the march. They have shown unmistakable signs of initiative and pluck. They have beaten hollow the men-folk in several Panchayat elections, notably the 25-year old Reshami, a Bhil woman who got elected as Sarpanch of Khushalpada Panchayat in Rajasthan, and the formation of an all woman Gaon Sabha in Puravijaya in Uttar Pradesh. A fairly large number of women have been sworn in as Panches in the Punjab. It is hoped that the eve in the villages will prove equal to the males in handling civic administrative matters.

The Panchayati Raj movement got fresh impetus when the Congress at its Session held at Sardarnagar adopted unanimously a resolution recommending the adoption of Panchayati Raj throughout the country.

TREMENDOUS TASK

A tremendous task faces the newly elected representatives in the Panchayati Raj. It is on their capability, integrity and sense of fairness that the success of the whole programme depends. Time and again, it has been pointed out that Panchayati Raj is no Talisman which will bring about the desired revolution in the countryside automatically. The entire people more particularly the elected representatives will have to shoulder the wheel. The Reserve Bank of India in a recent review on the progress of C.D. programme has rightly drawn attention to this basic problem and suggested adequate 'guidance, education and training' for the Panches in order that the risk of committing mistakes is minimised. It is earnestly hoped that the elected representatives will come up to the expectations and give a good account of themselves.



Official Apathy?

Sir,

In the September issue of Panchayati Raj Shri S. K. Dey has written about the village Production Programmes. I fully agree that villagers should organise themselves, draft village production plans and carry them out. But for this they need some official help, especially technical help. In giving technical help the degree of cooperation by the technical staff lags behind to a certain extent. For the drafting of village agricultural production plans the villagers have to know the condition of the soil. The technicians have to ascertain it and advise accordingly. But only half-hearted attempts are made for testing of soils. The results of the tests are not received even after a period of over one year. When asked, some vague answer is given and members of the agricultural staff even say that soil testing is not essential and that they know of what type the soil is. Perhaps basing their opinion on some general report, they say that the soil in a particular area is acid and suggest adding of lime or some such thing. Well, how can a villager be satisfied with such a scanty answer, though due to fear and respect he may remain mum? If the soil is acidic, what is the extent of acidity? If lime is to be given, how much of it? What about the other deficiencies in the soil? Different crops may be requiring different kinds of fertilisers, and the quantity also may differ from crop to crop. This information must come from the technicians in a convincing manner. In fact the technicians should volunteer it rather than wait for the farmer to approach them.

One of the factors necessary for better yield is the use of proper improved seeds. Though farmers know this fact very well, yet they are not able to procure improved seed. The Government is trying to have established seed growers. But does the seed supplied by them conform to the specific standards? Do these established seed growers take enough care to grow, collect and preserve the seeds properly? Or is it only to get some seed, improved or otherwise, for themselves that they come forward to have themselves registered as seed growers? Moreover, there is not enough incentive to the seed grower. Only about a rupee extra than the ruling market rate per bag of seed supplied is promised to them. He would get more than that even if he were to sell the same in the open market. Some effective measures should be adopted for the supply and use of improved seeds. The measures may differ from district to district or place to place.

Adequate use of preventive measures against pests and diseases is not made by the farmers. Often a farmer approaches an agriculture official after a disease has affected his crop. By the time the agriculture official ascertains the disease and suggests a remedy, the disease has made considerable progress and then it becomes too late to use any remedy. I suggest that advice regarding preventive measures should be given voluntarily from time to time and on the spot, by the technicians. As there is likelihood of such advice being wrong or being given perfunctorily without any proper thought, I would suggest that case papers, similar to the ones maintained in human dispensaries should be maintained by the technicians. I know that it will increase the paper work, but it would be worth it.

Much can be said about officials' apathy, their status consciousness, their indifference to the needs of the people whom they are supposed to serve. But I for one believe that we (the people) should not depend much on them. Up to now we were forced to depend on them, but now with the introduction of democratic decentralisation, I firmly believe that people will manage their own affairs in an organised way and the progress they make will have a lasting beneficial effect.

Yours etc.

28-11-60 *V. D. Malgavkar.*
Post Jaglbet,
Via Londa.

* * *

New Bottleneck to Rural Progress

Sir,

The humming activity of the fast coming up brick-kilns in the calm rural surroundings, is a true symbol of progress of village uplift work. These have helped in the construction of pucca houses, roads, culverts, irrigation channels, masonry wells, school buildings, street pavements, drains and cattle-sheds. Since last year, however, a serious crisis is threatening them due to non-supply of adequate quantity of coal. The coal supply position this year is still worse. The whole scheme of village construction works is likely to receive a severe set-back for lack of bricks.

The villagers feel that if coal is diverted from the rural sector to the huge steel plants and other big projects at this speed, the rural economy may be irrevocably damaged. The food drives will make little headway if extension of irrigation projects like masonry wells, syphons etc. is held up. By burning fuel wood in the kilns the bricks produced would further aggravate our agronomial imbalance. Already the percentage of area under forests, orchards and tree plantations is far below the danger level and this has been partly responsible for unparallelled natural calamities of floods and droughts in recent years.

In view of the far-reaching implications of coal supply in rural sector, the authorities concerned should give topmost priority to the immediate supply of adequate number of coal wagons for brick-kilns.

Yours etc.

P. L. Vacher,
31-10-60 *B.D.O.*
Lar Dist. Deoria, U.P.

* * *

Cooperation from Top

Sir,

In the article "Message" by Shri S. K. Dey appearing on page 1 of Panchayati Raj, November issue it is mentioned, "Cooperation is the law of the universe. Cooperation is also the law of life". It is quite true. None can deny or dispute this universal truth. But Cooperation of any kind is entirely absent even with the educated classes of urban folk. It is more so with Government servants of various grades.

The great leaders of the cooperative movement always impose on the poor illiterate village folk all sorts of practicable and impracticable proposals with no successful results and finally blame these poor people that they were not able to make use of the opportunities given. Why this failure? Because these poor village-folk depend upon their village leaders of different groups or factions, who in turn depend upon their taluk, district and State leaders. I, therefore, suggest that cooperation should start from the top, that is the Government servants of all grades and the educated classes of urban folk and then come down to the villages. Let men at the top first set an example.

Yours etc.

G. Krishna Rao,
Ex. President, Village
29-12-60 *Panchayat Board.*
Kola Kalur,
Dist. Guntur, A.P.

This Happened in a Village

All-women's Panchayat in a Village

THE WOMEN of village Mattampalli have shown unmistakably that eve in some C.D. Blocks is on the march and is moving faster than the men folk. The eight-member Gram Panchayat of this village in Huzurnagar Block Panchayat Samiti, of Nalgonda district in Andhra Pradesh, is constituted entirely of women—and all were elected popularly, in November 1959.

Some of the conservative people in the village did not like the idea that only women should be elected to the Panchayat. They said, "This would mean female domination".

The Chairman of the Zila Parishad, an inhabitant of the village, however, persuaded the elders that women too could run village administration well and that in no case should it be necessary to curtail their powers.

The village has a population of 1,710 men and 1,890 women. The elections were conducted by a show of hands. Of the eight seats, six were declared unanimously. In the contest for the remaining 2 seats, the men pitted against women, were defeated.

As this Gram Panchayat run by women has registered good achievements, within the short course of just over a year, even the conservative elements now react favourably to the election of women to Gram Panchayats and are now extending full cooperation. Women folk are keener than the men on developmental works. They wish to make up for the slow progress registered in the past by the Gram Panchayat "dominated by males".

Substantial progress has already been registered in various spheres of village life. The village now has all the three basic institutions that a model village would like to have, viz. a panchayat, a co-operative and a school.

The development activities undertaken by the panchayat include the intensification of the agricultural production on a priority basis. Under this programme, four small existing tanks have been repaired to provide irrigation. An agricultural godown has been opened to handle the distribution of chemical fertilizers now in great demand. In one year, sales totalled worth Rs. 29,000. Line sowing has been popularised not only for the cultivation of paddy but also for that of cotton. Twelve sprayers and 4 dusters have been purchased by the Gram Panchayat to control pests and diseases affecting crops. A newly organised rural credit society has distributed Rs. 20,000 as production loans.

A veterinary first aid centre is also functioning. The panchayat is also making efforts to replace the local breed of poultry by exotic birds; and a Murrah Buffalo has been purchased to upgrade cattle breed.

Two adult literacy centres, now being run with the help of the Panchayat Samiti, have made 300 persons literate. The Panchayat has purchased and installed a Community listening radio set for Rs. 275.

A "Bala Vihar" with a children's park has been set up at a cost of Rs. 1,000. Members of the Youth Club have constructed a library building with shramdan.

A "Mahila Mandali" formed by 50 village women looks after women's welfare. Through their efforts 30 smokeless chulas have been installed, and a sewing centre opened.

(Continued on page 8)

COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

SOMETHING OF A MIRACLE

SOMETHING OF a miracle is happening in Satara district in Maharashtra. On November 1, 1960 the people of the district launched the 'Rural Education and Cooperation' campaign. The campaign aims at complete eradication of illiteracy from the district so that every adult person in the district—man or woman—is enumerated as "LITERATE" in the census. The other object is to bring all the landholders within the fold of cooperation and increase the deposits of the cooperative banks in the district to Rs. 1.50 crores. So far, 11,000 classes have been started and 1,72,000 adults enrolled in them. Almost all the illiterate people in the district are attending the classes. Within one month of the starting of the campaign, 12,000 landholders have joined the cooperatives.

* * *

3-MILE ROAD THROUGH SHRAMDAN

ABOUT 500 N.C.C. Cadets from all over Rajasthan have constructed a 3-mile long approach road from village Uchaira to the main road near Jodhpur. The cadets participated in a 12-day special service and labour camp. The villagers of Uchaira, Nanorakalan and Digavi also cooperated with the cadets in this work of their common benefit.

* * *

FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVES NET BIG PROFIT

THE FISHERMEN'S Cooperatives in Saurashtra are reported to have earned a profit of over Rs. 7 crores during the past year. This has been made possible largely because of a chain of 115 cold storages run by these cooperatives on the 100-mile Saurashtra Coastline. In some parts of this coast, a cold storage was available to fishermen, every third mile.

* * *

A PROGRESSIVE VILLAGE IN KERALA

PALLANCHATHANUR village in Palghat district of Kerala State has been doing exceedingly well under an active Panchayat. There are about 4,000 persons inhabiting the village—the number of women folk being more than that of men. The Panchayat's annual income is rather meagre being only Rs. 1,500. But by mustering people's voluntary labour it has been able to provide civil amenities to the Community. It has constructed a Community Centre and a Reading Room and provided a Radio set. Here the villagers meet, talk and have some sort of recreation every day. It has also built 6 culverts at a cost of Rs. 4,000. It undertook the metalling of 2 roads, seven miles of which are now maintained by it. With electricity having been recently extended to the village, the Panchayat has undertaken street lighting. It is in the field of agriculture that the village has achieved outstanding success. The entire cultivable area of 920 acres is irrigated and under paddy cultivation. About ninety per cent of the farmers produce their own compost manure and green manure, use chemical fertilisers and improved seeds; adopt plant protection measures and other improved methods of cultivation. The average yield of paddy per acre is 4,215 lbs. A cooperative Farming Society covering an area of 26 acres and having a membership of 38 has been organised. Besides, service Cooperative Society and a Weavers' Cooperative Society are also functioning. Nothing surprising, if the village was adjudged

the best in the district, last year.

* * *

PANVEL C.D. BLOCK MAKES HEADWAY

IN THE PANVEL Community Development block, 50 per cent of the agriculturists have adopted improved methods of farming. Fertilisers, improved seeds and the Japanese method of cultivation are being increasingly employed.

In this block, many innovations can be claimed. About eight years ago, the cultivation of vegetables was rare. Today, a number of them are grown during the off-season, —cauliflowers, tomatoes, cabbages and brinjals—and transported to the Bombay market which is 45 miles away. An enlightened farmer, whose farm is a multi-purpose one obtained a yield of 60 maunds of rice per acre in some parts of his estate. The average for his farm worked out to 45 maunds per acre. This farmer has also a flourishing sheep and poultry farm and a dairy from which he receives 120 seers of milk per day. Some years ago, growing of pineapples was unknown in this area. Today, pineapples, mangoes and guavas are produced in substantial numbers. Ten per cent of the wasteland has been converted into arable.

Cooperation has made tremendous progress. Ninety-five per cent of the villages embracing 52% of the agricultural population are covered by cooperatives. Two years ago, there were only 18 cooperative societies and the loans to agriculturists amounted to Rs. 2 lakhs. To-day, there are 62 cooperative societies, out of which 41 are multi-purpose, two of these catering to the needs of the backward classes exclusively. The amount of loans to agriculturists has increased to Rs. 9 lakhs per annum.

* * *

FAMILY PLANNING CAMPAIGN: SATARA TOPS LIST

SATARA DISTRICT stood first in the family planning campaign recently organised in Maharashtra. During the period of the campaign, each district was set a target of 600 sterilisation operations. While a number of districts did very impressively towards attaining their targets as a result of the enthusiasm of the people, Satara excelled having as many as 1,100 operations of both vasectomy and tubectomy performed in hospitals as well as in a number of well-organised vasectomy camps.

* * *

NEW LOOK GIVEN TO VILLAGES

DUE TO THE untiring efforts of some of the Yuvak Mangal Dals (Youth Welfare Clubs), the villages of Bhavan Bahadur Development block in Bullandshahr district in Uttar Pradesh now wear a new look, with almost each house having a separate kitchen garden where seasonal vegetables and flowers are grown.

The members of these Dals have been running several adult schools, and two night schools. People are also persuaded to utilise their leisure in libraries and reading rooms. Sports and folk-songs recitals are also occasionally organised to provide recreation to the village inhabitants.

Efforts are made to induce cultivators to adopt the latest methods of agriculture to increase their yield. The dibbling method acquired great popularity among the peasants during the last rabi.

The Yuvak Mangal Dals hold frequent meetings for discussions and mutual exchange of ideas. Many of the Dals have their own band parties and they play their orchestra free on festive occasions.

ALL-WOMEN'S PANCHAYAT IN A VILLAGE

(Continued from page 6)

The Gram Panchayat has also taken keen interest in the uplift of Harijans. Two new drinking water wells have been constructed and 23 Harijans have been provided with financial grants for the construction of houses.

A kuchha road has been built to connect Mattampalli with Amaravaram at a cost of Rs. 3,000 and a bus service now connects the village with the outside world.

The item now engaging the attention of the Gram Panchayat is the construction of a Panchayatghar, estimated to cost Rs. 10,000.

RURAL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

P. M. MATHAI

WITH THE ADVENT of Panchayati Raj, the development of rural areas is bound to gain considerable momentum. To meet the challenge of the hour, the rural areas need to be industrialised in a planned way to find employment for the dispersed population as well as to increase productivity. However, without planning and State initiative there will only be very little development in an under-developed country. As observed by an eminent economist, "If the movement towards industrialisation is to be pushed ahead the State will have to intervene in the field of manufacturing industries, not only creating the external economies and supplying transport and power, but often also organising the marketing of produce of the expanding industrial sector, providing facilities for training of workers, foremen and technicians at all levels, as well as business executives, giving managerial advice, making capital available, often subsidising or protecting new industrial enterprises, and sometimes actually establishing and operating them." It is in this context, that the scheme of rural industrial estates has to be considered as an instrument to achieve planned rural industrialisation.

The Concept

The concept of rural industrial estates is based on the successful experiments of the United Kingdom where such a programme was very helpful in the industrialisation of under-developed and backward areas. The original scheme of industrial estates initiated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was meant to house in a planned way industries which have grown haphazardly in towns and cities so that congestion is relieved and necessary facilities such as factory buildings, electricity, raw material, credit facilities, technical know-how, fuel, water supply etc. are made available to them. But the purpose of rural industrial estates now proposed in the country is mainly to decentralise and diversify small-scale industries in rural areas so that these may be effectively used as instruments of planned rural industrialisation.

Integrated Approach

The scheme of rural industrial estates visualises integrated and coordinated approach to make available all necessary facilities on simultaneous basis, required for the development of small industries. Next to finance, the biggest difficulty which a small industrialist has to face is to find a suitable factory accommodation with facilities of power and water. The industrial estates help small industrialists to get over these difficulties. In order that an industry might be successful, it should be located at a place suitable for promoting production and marketing. It has to be as near as possible to the source of raw material, labour, supply of electricity and water. Besides, it should be close to the consuming centres. It is in view of these considerations that many small entrepreneurs rush to urban areas. In order, therefore, to attract these small industries to rural areas, the Government has to create suitable facilities and conditions in the rural area itself. In countries like United Kingdom and some Scandinavian countries, it is a definite policy of the State to provide special concessions and preferences to industries located in rural areas.

The type of industries that may be promoted in rural industrial estates depends upon the potential of each area. Broadly speaking, industries like manufacture of agricultural implements, general repair workshops, common facility centres, fruit and vegetable preservation, canning, butter and cheese making, cycle parts and machine parts manufacture, small electric accessories, processing of cereals, ropes and fibre products, bakery and confectionery, wire products, nuts, bolts, locks, and ancilliary industries etc. could be located with advantage in these rural estates.

Common Facilities

The industrial estates aim at providing facilities which are not available in the undeveloped areas. These may

consist of facilities such as those of repair workshops, common facility centres, services of electricians, plumbers, and welders, raw material depots, stores and accessories, arrangements for display of finished goods and items in demand for manufacture, godown facilities for storing raw material and finished goods that could be hypotheticated to the banks against advance of loans, availability of technical advice, arrangement for credit facility and hire-purchase of machines etc. Besides, the entrepreneurs and the workers are to be provided school and medical facilities.

Towards the end of the Second Plan, a few rural industrial estates were sponsored in Community Development Blocks and industrial pilot projects. Although some of these have yet to show the full results, the potentiality of the scheme is already in evidence. During the Third Plan, more ambitious programme of rural industrial estates will be undertaken particularly by States like Punjab, Bihar, U.P., Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Kerala.

Social Objective

These rural industrial estates may in course of time develop into agro-industrial townships. The villages in the past have been normally exploited by towns and cities. The role of villagers has been to produce food and other necessities for the cities and they got very little in return. In order to have a healthy growth of the society, and to have a balanced economic development, the activities of villages and towns should be largely complementary to each other. It is not possible to produce enough food in the towns but the towns could certainly extend a number of services to the villages around and help raise the standard of living of the villagers. It is this complementary and integrated approach that inspires the development of these agro-industrial towns. From these rural estates technical know-how will flow and spread out into the rural area. Though the development of the rural estates and agro-industrial townships in many cases may be a slow and gradual process, yet it cannot fail to make itself felt in course of time. The rural industrial estates besides the immediate commercial objective have a larger social purpose in view. These estates have a part to play in the building up of the national economy by developing the entrepreneurial spirit creating employment potential in rural and undeveloped areas and achieving the goal of a decentralised economy.

RAIL CONCESSIONS FOR SCHEDULED CASTE BHARAT DARSHAN PARTIES

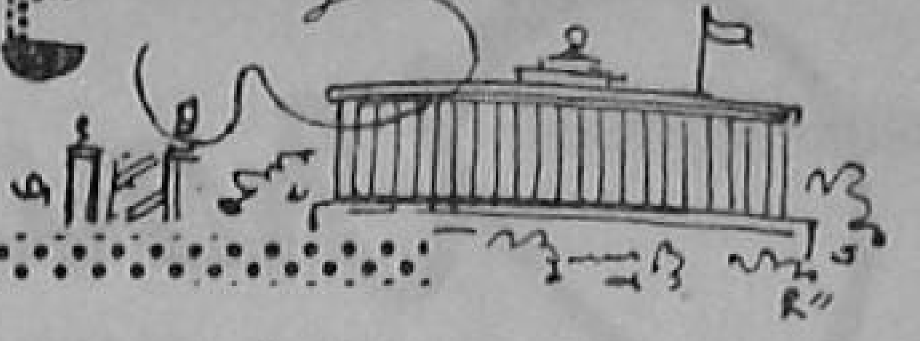
Peasants belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be entitled to concessional railway fares while they are on Bharat Darshan tours organised by the State Governments or Centrally administered territories. This is subject to the condition that such a touring party consists of not less than 400 adults and is travelling in special coaches of the third class compartment.

The concessional railway fare charged from these peasants will be one-fourth of the third class mail/express fare per passenger for seating accommodation on the basis of two seats in ordinary coaches of one sleeping berth in three-tier coaches. Those seeking such concession will have to produce a certificate from an authorised officer of the State Government about their being bona fide peasants of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Facilities like the provision of a kitchen car or a bogie vehicle free of charge, free carriage of four cooks or servants and one conductor and the reduced basis of charges for detention which are available for the ordinary kisan special trains will be available to these travelling parties as well.

The kisans not belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes will also be allowed to travel by these special trains on production of requisite certificates from the district authorities and on payment of charges leviable for ordinary kisan special trains. The other passengers eligible for travelling by ordinary kisan special trains will be allowed to travel in these special trains on payment of fares chargeable from them for ordinary kisan special trains on production of requisite certificates.

FROM THE CENTRE



Intensive Agricultural Programme

To help the Intensive Agricultural programme, the Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation has suggested that the headquarters of the additional Extension Officers (Agriculture) should be located in villages and not at Block headquarters. Each of the Agricultural Extension Officer is to be made responsible for a group of 20 villages.

In districts where the Intensive Agricultural production programme is being implemented, 4 Extension Officers (Agriculture), 10 Village Level Workers, one Extension Officer (Cooperation), assisted by 4 to 5 cooperative supervisors have been provided for each C.D. Block, in addition to the normal complement of Community Development staff.

The provision for additional staff at Block as also at district level has been made with a view to ensuring proper assistance to farmers in the preparation of farm and village production plans.

Extension Officers are intended to provide adequate guidance and supervision to the Village Level Workers in their day-to-day work and to take up some of the field work, such as the preparation of intensive farm production plans, laying out of field demonstrations in one or two villages.

* * *

Rural Institutes

Three more Rural Institutes for imparting higher rural education, are to be set up in the country in the Third Plan. This was decided by the National Council for Rural Higher Education which ended its two-day session in Udaipur on January 8. There are already 11 such institutes in the country.

* * *

Popularising Agricultural Implements

In order to give impetus to the movement for higher agricultural output in the Third Plan steps will be taken to popularise the use of improved implements by farmers. As a first step, demonstration of improved implements will be given in 1,000 development Blocks in 100 districts all over the country. With the help of trained technical staff, demonstration will be arranged from village to village to carry the message to the cultivators. At Block headquarters, a stock of implements will be kept for demonstration and hire. Simultaneously, arrangements will be made for easy availability of loans to farmers by Cooperative Societies so that no one desirous of purchasing improved implements in prevented from doing so for want of funds. For the supply of tools, 25 workshops have already started working during the Second Plan. 25 more will be set up during the Third Plan.

* * *

Loans to Cooperatives

About 70 per cent of the agricultural population will be covered by cooperatives at the end of the Third Plan. A substantial portion of the agricultural requirements of the peasants for seeds, fertilisers, improved implements and insecticides will be met out of the allotment of Rs. 500 crores for short-term and medium term loans to cooperatives. Besides, long-term credit of Rs. 180 crores will also be available.

* * *

Village Housing Research Centres

The Government of India has established six regional research-*cum*-training centres for promoting the use of local building material and improvement of construction technique for village houses. The centres, will also train technical personnel for planning and implementing projects under the village housing schemes. The centres form wings of engineering institutions located at Bangalore, Anand (Gujerat), Sibpur (Howrah), Roorkee, New Delhi and Chandigarh.

* * *

Around the States

DELHI

Panchayats to Receive Part of Village Taxes

The Delhi Municipal Corporation has decided to give 48 per cent of the taxes collected from the villages to the panchayats in the Union Territory of Delhi. Twenty per cent of the revenues from the villages will be kept by the Corporation as collection charges and the rest will be spent in the rural areas.

GUJERAT

Democratic Decentralisation

A three-tier system of democratic bodies at the village, taluka and district levels and transfer of certain administrative functions and financial provisions to these bodies have been recommended by the Democratic Decentralisation Committee appointed by Gujerat State in July last.

The panchayat at the district level is to be an executive body and the functions and powers of district officers of development departments will devolve on it. It would replace the present four institutions at the district level, *viz.*, district local board, district school board, district village panchayat mandal and the district development board.

The committee has recommended that these democratic bodies should take over the entire general administration and development of the district excepting such functions as law and order, administration of justice and revenue administration. The functions will be transferred along with the personnel and the funds for expenditure incurred by the Government on salaries and allowances of these personnel.

The committee has recommended allocation of the total land revenue of the State in various proportions to the three bodies at the district, taluka and village level. Independent sources of income for these three bodies in the form of taxes, fees, surcharges, etc. are also to be provided.

The committee has also recommended that the supervision and inspection of a panchayat on one level would rest in the panchayat of a higher level, the Government having overall powers of supervision and inspection. In the matter of control of these bodies, the Government will have powers to meet emergencies.

ORISSA

Panchayati Raj Inaugurated

The Republic Day of 1961 marked the inauguration of Panchayati Raj in the State of Orissa. On that day, 307 Panchayat Samitis started functioning in the State. Under the Orissa system of Panchayati Raj, Panchayat Samitis are constituted of not only Surpanches of the concerned panchayats, but also of members "other than panches" directly elected by the village electorate. The State has been delimited into 307 blocks, of which 210 are active blocks and the remaining 97 are shadow blocks. Village panchayats are already in existence in the State and are working in close collaboration with the Community Development department. Their number, at the moment, is 2,344.

Panchayat Samiti elections held recently, evoked widespread enthusiasm. In about 30 per cent of cases the elections were unanimous. Though political parties have stood out of the election yet the contesting candidates in many cases were not hesitant to affiliate their allegiance to one party or the other. The results in many such cases have been revealing. Known party members have lost to quite unknown persons. Victory in most cases has been governed by honesty, integrity and a clean public life of the persons elected. On the whole, the elections of Panchayat Samitis have brought into the field many new public workers belonging to all sections of the society.

Sons of the Soil

Keenness For Learning Brings Higher Output

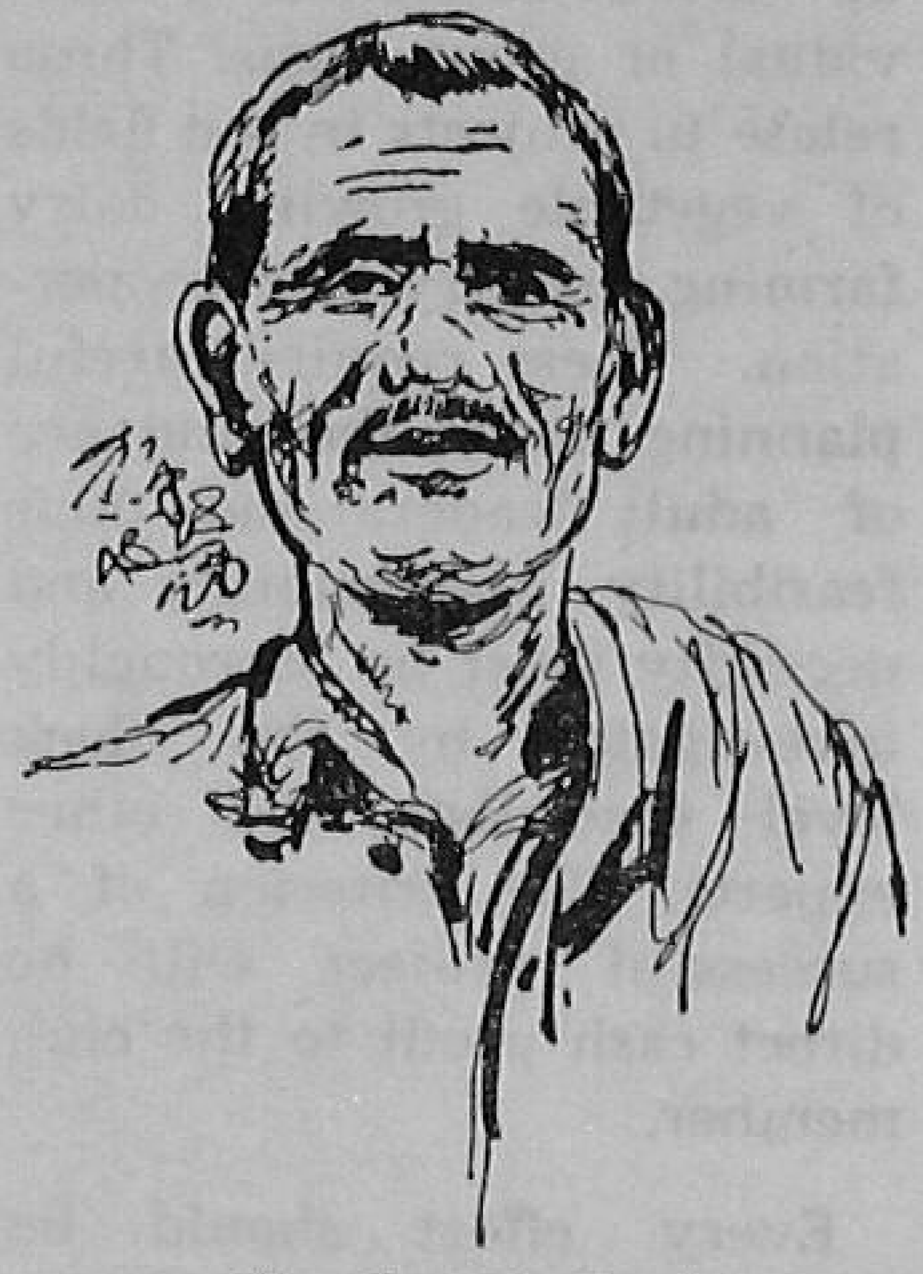
Chaudhri Jit Singh of Ranikhera village in Kanjhawla block in the Union Territory of Delhi is a farmer who is never tired of learning new things which can help him increase his output and provide an example to fellow cultivators.

A pioneer in introducing new varieties, he has recently succeeded in producing a yield of 61 maunds 30 seers per acre in his 20-acre farm, —the highest in the block.

During a visit to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa (New Delhi), he was deeply impressed by the vigour, growth, height and ears of N.P. 824 variety of wheat. What was superior must be immediately adopted by him. He decided to cover the entire 20 acres of his land with this variety.

Then on to work. He ploughed his land four to five inches deep with a furrow-turning plough drawn by tractor. Thereafter the field was ploughed ten times with the cultivator.

A few years ago, he used to sow 35 to 40 seers to the acre. This time, he reduced the seed rate to 30 seers on



Chaudhri Jit Singh

the advice of the Block Development Officer. He treated the seed with Agroxone G.N. to protect it from smut. Five trucks of the sludge manure per acre were applied by him, besides ammonium sulphate at 50 seers per acre.

REMOVING WEEDS

When the crop was about one foot high, he particularly saw to it that the entire field was completely cleared of all weeds like *bathu, pohli* and *piazi*.

He gave only four irrigations to the crop—three up to January and the fourth at the "milking stage" in February. This additional irrigation during this period, according to him, was most essential in developing the grain and increasing the yield.

The crop was stout in vigour and growth and had reached four to five feet in height during the third week of March. The spiklets ranged from 24 to 27 in each ear, while the average number of spiklets in C. 281 in a nearby farmer's field was only 20.

NO FALLING

Although the crop in the fields of other farmers had fallen there was no falling in Jit Singh's crop. He explained that 'daul bandi' (bunding the field) was one of the reasons, apart from the quality of the seed.

Chaudhri Jit Singh's farm is a living example of how farmers can increase their yield by applying improved methods and working with determination and the will to succeed.

PROMOTING YOUTH CLUBS

Ravi Dutt Sharma

THE FIRST THING that should be kept in view while organising a Youth Club is to establish contact with progressive elders and the youth and to discuss with them all the aspects of youth work in the most informal manner. The village school teacher will be of great help in bringing him in touch with men of interest and broad outlook. As a result of these contacts the organiser should be able to spot out the interested and enthusiastic young men of the village.

FORMING CLUB

The next step should be a meeting of prospective club members, their parents, panches, V.L.Ws, Social Education Workers and leaders. The objectives, principles and methods of rural youth work should thoroughly be explained in such a manner that a proposal to form the club would receive spontaneous response. Potential members may then form themselves into an *ad hoc* club till a formal election of office bearers takes place. The organiser must give the group an idea of how institutions work democratically. Rules and regulations should be agreed upon before hand. Ceremonials serve a useful purpose for highlighting ideals and creating an emotional attachment. The organiser should, therefore, advise the club members to have an oath taking ceremony in which they should take a pledge and offer allegiance to the club flag.

ACTIVITIES

The members of the Club should be encouraged to take up various activities on individual or group basis. These relate to projects in the fields of vegetable growing, dairy farming, poultry and cooperation. These require careful planning under the guidance of adult leaders and their feasibility, practicability and necessity must be thoroughly investigated by the block level specialists and other experts. The criterion of a successful project will be direct cash profit to the club member.

Every effort should be made to encourage the members of the club to join Bharat Darshan parties and go round the country to have a look at development activities in various States. Members of the youth clubs are free to choose any project according to individual aptitude, availability of material and expert advice. But these should generally relate to agriculture or some economic and paying project. The primary task before the clubs is increased production with consequent rise in personal income. Therefore, every effort should enlist the active cooperation of such people who are engaged in agriculture. Some possible projects are listed below ;—

1. *Better farming practices* :
   Sowing of seeds of improved quality, judicious use of fertilisers, compost & green manure; use of improved implements and use of insecticides and pesticides to protect crops.
2. *Vegetable growing* :
   Introduction of more productive varieties of potato, lady's finger, tomato, brinjal, carrot, turnip, onion, cabbage, cauliflower, chilly, for the family and the market.
3. *Animal Husbandry and Dairy Farming* :
   Calf rearing under the government sponsored subsidy scheme for increasing milk production and upbreading of cattle.
4. *Poultry* :
   Introduction of White Leg Horn, and Rhodes Island Red in place of indigenous birds. Feeding for increasing egg production.
5. *Group projects* :
   Crop protection campaign, weed destruction drives, demonstration plots, cooperative stores, village beautification, tree planting, literacy drives, junior red cross, Shramdan and cottage industry.

Panchayati Raj in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh

STUDY TEAM'S REPORT

Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh were the first two States in India to introduce Panchayati Raj. Recently the Congress Party in Parliament appointed a Study Team to assess the progress of Panchayati Raj and its impact on the people there. Below we give a summary of the impressions gained by the Study Team during its tour of the two States—**Editor.**

IN RAJASTHAN

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM were highly impressed by the attitude of the officials at all levels which was to make Panchayati Raj a success in the State of Rajasthan. They were acting in close cooperation with the elected representatives of the people as a whole. They found great consciousness in the people as well as in their elected representatives who were alive to their own responsibilities and were doing their level best to discharge their duties.

The team was much impressed by the amount of interest shown by some of these bodies to better the condition of the Harijans and other backward classes by giving financial assistance to them to construct pucca houses and also wells for drinking water. In a way the inferiority complex feeling on the part of these communities was gradually fading away. It is true that in some cases it came across acute party factions between different groups of people in these bodies, but still some positive achievements had been made.

Out of 232 Panchayat Samitis and 26 Zila Parishads in the State of Rajasthan, only in 7 or 8 cases the team noticed conflict between the Pradhan and the Vikas Adhikari. Out of these in 2 or 3 cases Pradhans had been suspended for some irregularity or the other. In other cases enquiries were still pending. Only in one case, the Pramukh had not been pulling on well with the District Collector.

The Team found that the Pramukhs or the members of the Zila Parishads, invariably demanded more powers and that they were not satisfied with the advisory role allotted to them so far.

The Team has suggested that in order to make Zila Parishads more effective, the Pramukh might be consulted in regard to the allocation of Funds by the Government to the various Panchayat Samitis either by being called at the State Headquarters or some officer visiting the Zila Parishads for consultation.

The Team felt that though it was too early to pass a judgment as to the success or otherwise of this great experiment of Panchayati Raj in Rajasthan, yet it was sure that a good beginning had been made in the right direction with right mental attitude both on the part of the services and that of the elected representatives and that there was a bright future before them.

IN ANDHRA

As in Rajasthan, so in Andhra, members of the team were immensely impressed by the general awareness in the peoples' representatives who were more interested in taking up matters for the general good rather than the good of a particular individual. Equally were the members impressed by the attitude of the officials, associated with the working of the Panchayati Raj. They wanted to do their utmost to make this great experiment a success.

Though at places untouchability was still a live issue, the Team found there was awareness in the people as a whole to do their part of the duty for the amelioration of the conditions of the Harijans. Not only pucca houses were constructed for them here and there, but at places training institutions exclusively for their benefit had been set up.

The Team found that the Chairmen, Zila Parishads did not want the District Collectors to preside over the meetings of their Standing Committees.

(*Continued on page 16*)

USEFUL TIPS

Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables

INVESTIGATIONS HAVE shown that the three important varieties of mango, *viz.* Fazli, Langra and Himsagar, available in West Bengal, the Himsagar variety gives the best canned product from the point of view of retention of colour, flavour, texture, taste and also B-carotene content. Of the two varieties (Giant Queen and Queen) of pineapples studied, the Giant Queen gives better canned product. The studies on canned orange segments of Nagpur and Darjeeling varieties, peeled by acid and lye treatment, show that lye peeling gives better canned product. Ascorbic acid retention and taste of orange segments are better with lye peeling.

The best canned pulp from the point of view of retention of colour, flavour and vitamin C content is obtained from the Marglobe variety of tomato. Of the fifteen varieties of peas studied for canning, only three varieties namely, NP 29 IARI, K-Alderman and Hybrid, have yielded good canned products in regard to their retention of colour, flavour and texture. English Ball variety of cabbage has been found best for canning.

HOW TO COOK NEW RICE

Old rice is sold at much higher rate than freshly harvested rice. This is because new rice becomes pasty after cooking and is also said to cause some digestive disturbances. Taking this difficulty into consideration, the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, has suggested some improvements in the cooking method of freshly harvested rice. We give below these hints which should be of considerable interest to our readers :

1. Rice should be soaked in water for 2—3 hours prior to cooking so that it will absorb sufficient water. If hot water is used, soaking for half an hour is sufficient.

2. The soaked rice should be kept in a perforated vessel or basket (made of aluminium or brass) which is either suspended by means of a hook or supported in some other way in the rice cooking vessel. (For this purpose an idli vessel or any other type of rice cooker which is available in the house can be used).

3. Water should be boiled in the cooking vessel and the soaked rice steamed in it for about 15 minutes. This helps in gelatinisation of the starch on the surface so that rice does not become pasty on subsequent cooking.

4. At the end of this time, the steamed rice should be lowered in the boiling water in the vessel and cooking continued. (If an idli vessel is used for steaming the rice, it will be necessary to transfer it to a vessel containing boiling water). As the rice is already partially cooked during the steam process, this later cooking takes about ten minutes only, so that the total cooking time and the fuel used in cooking by this method is not more than that needed for traditional method of cooking rice.

PANCHAYATI RAJ IN RAJASTHAN AND ANDHRA PRADESH

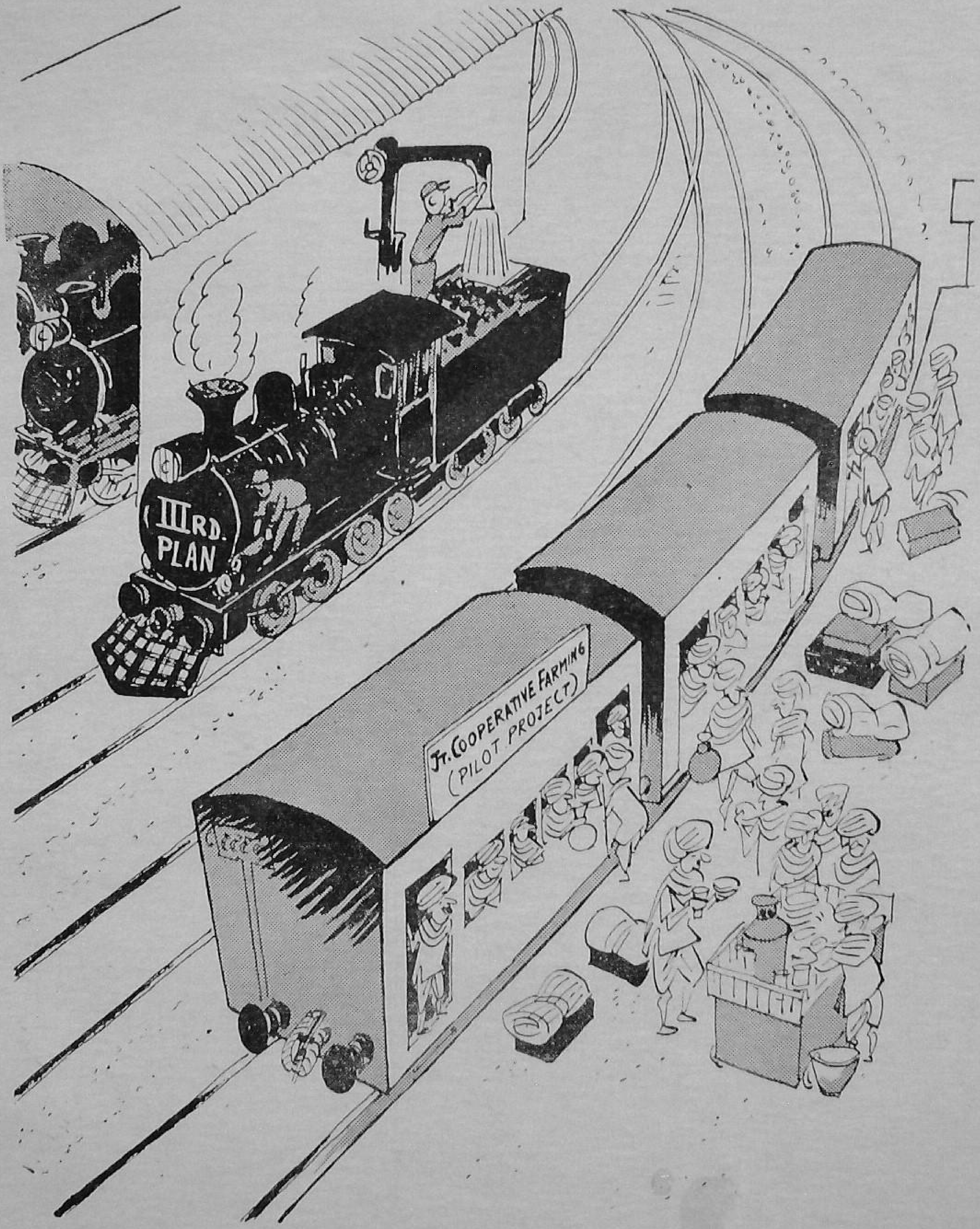
(*Continued from page* 15)

Absence of a programme of continuous training to non-official members of Samitis and parishads in Andhra rather shocked the Team which felt that this great experiment was bound to be wrecked if continuous training was not provided for both officials as well as non-officials. The members felt that the plethora of rules and regulations for the working of the Panchayati Raj needed to be simplified and streamlined.

Members of the Team were highly impressed by the remarkable progress made by these institutions both in regard to raising of Food Production and expansion of elementary as well as secondary education.

From all that they saw in Andhra, they come to the conclusion as in Rajasthan that the people there,—officials, non-officials and the general public were determined to make this experiment of Panchayati Raj a great success.

Another Farmers' Special



THE NAUGHTY CHILD AND THE DELICIOUS PAPITA. *Papita is a fast growing plant and starts yielding fruit in the first year of its planting. It is a useful hobby for those interested in Kitchen gardening.*

Regd. D—877

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-6, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation.